

Today, that vision has become a reality. Through their collaboration with National Public Radio, The Field Museum of Chicago, Gallery 37 and Public Broadcasting Service, among others, Street-Level is able to serve more than 1,000 children and young adults in Chicago. Thanks to their association with these well-known entities, we have been graced with historical documentaries, innovative animation and multicultural education resources.

Programs like Street-Level Youth Media deserve our recognition. Programs such as these are proactive, promote a child's creative interests and develop critical thinking skills. As we embark into the Twenty-First Century, our challenge should be to replicate exemplary programs like Street-Level so that we may have an able Twenty-First Century citizenry.

I applaud the work that you do and I am hopeful that your creative energy will follow your lives and make our world richer. Congratulations.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for a recorded vote earlier today. If I had been present for the rollcall vote No. 487, I would have voted "yea".

#### DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE PROGRAM

##### HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, not long ago, I served as host for a reception in the Cannon Caucus Room to honor the finalists in the Do the Write Thing Challenge Program. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth and Families of the House Education and the Workforce Committee, I want to call this initiative to the attention of my colleagues.

Do the Write is a project of the National Campaign to Stop Violence. Students in urban middle schools are encouraged to write about problems of violence and drug abuse in their communities. Through these writings, 7th and 8th graders are motivated to make a commitment to stay in school and do something about drug abuse and violence. They also increase adult awareness and involvement in programs to address these problems.

At the beginning of each school year, school superintendents in targeted cities notify middle school principals about the Do the Write Thing Challenge Program. Students are then asked to write papers relating to three questions: "How has youth violence and drug abuse affected my life?" "What are the causes of youth violence and drug abuse?" "What can I do about the youth violence and drug abuse that I see or experience?"

A panel of volunteers reads student papers. They selected male and female finalists for each school. From among these students, the

best entries from each city are named national finalists. There is a local recognition ceremony for the school finalists, and a series of recognition events in Washington, D.C. for the national finalists. Local committees also work with government, businesses, and community leaders to provide opportunities for the student participants such as job training internships, mentoring, and scholarships. These are designed to promote community service and build a new network of positive relationships for those who have accepted the Do the Write Thing challenge.

The Do the Write Thing Challenge Program is presently operating in Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Hartford, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. Nationwide, over 15,000 students have submitted writings as part of the program.

Mr. Speaker, those who merit recognition are too numerous to mention, but I want to particularly thank Daniel Q. Callister, the founder and Chair of the National Campaign to Stop Violence for his leadership in the Do the Write Thing Challenge Program. I also thank Marion W. Mattingly who is working tirelessly to expand the Do the Write Thing Challenge Program to additional cities. The Council of Great City Schools, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Young Astronauts Counsel, and the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention are all supporting the program. Finally, special commendation goes to the Kuwait-America Foundation, the primary sponsor of the Do the Write Thing Challenge Program.

#### HONORING ROBIN CHANDLER DUKE

##### HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a good friend and outstanding leader, Robin Chandler Duke.

Robin is one of those rare individuals who lends energy and dynamism to every cause with which she is involved. Through her service and advocacy, Robin has advanced compassionate public policy here and abroad, while touching countless lives.

I have had the great privilege of working at Robin's side in the critical struggle to protect a woman's right to choose. President Emeritus of the National Abortion Rights Action League, Robin has been a tireless champion of reproductive freedom—always inspiring those with whom she works and meeting even the most difficult challenge with grace, wit, and determination.

Robin is a giant among pro-choice leaders, yet this is but a small part of her varied activities. For seven years, Robin has been the National Co-Chairperson of Population Action International, which is dedicated to the promotion of voluntary family planning, effective population policies, and individual rights. In addition, Robin is actively involved in the U.S. Japan Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the United Nations Association, the

Council on Foreign Relations, and the Friends of Art and Preservation in Embassies. She has represented our country in various international conferences and organizations, and remains today a shining light of principle and purpose.

Above all, Robin is a delightful human being. A paragon of elegance and poise, and yet utterly without pretension. Robin is always impressive, but never imposing. It is a joy to be her friend.

Mr. Speaker, this month Population Action International will honor Robin Chandler Duke for her service to that organization and for a lifetime of good works. Let the record reflect my enormous admiration and gratitude for this outstanding American.

#### GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

##### HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, during the week of November 15–21, the Arizona Geographic Alliance will be celebrating Arizona's Geography Awareness Week. The Alliance has worked closely with the Governor, local mayors and school superintendents to recognize the week in the public schools. The National Geographic Society, the State of Arizona, and Arizona State University supports Geography Awareness Week.

The purpose of the week of programs is to illustrate the importance of geography education. Studying geography is much more than just locating a city, state or country on a map. Students of geography learn about direction, climate, physical and social characteristics of a region, methods of travel, cultural differences, monetary systems, and environmental settings. A thorough understanding of geography offers an understanding needed for many of today's jobs. Geographic education also opens the mind to the world and experiences beyond our own boundaries.

I commend the members of the Arizona Geographic Alliance for their promotion of the importance of geography education. Hopefully, other states will join Arizona in creating a Geography Awareness Week to renew interest in our ever-changing global environment.

#### CELEBRATING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF JAMES FORMAN

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate James Forman, who should have been a celebrated leader years ago. Jim, as we always called him when he was the engine and the engineer of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), has just celebrated his 70th birthday. Jim Forman is the least known of the major civil rights leaders of the 1960s. Our colleague, John Lewis, may be the best known of those of us who worked in SNCC, but John would be the first to say that it was Jim who ran SNCC.